

REMARKS**I. Summary of the Office Action and Status of the Application**

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 4, 2004. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 6-8, 10, and 20 are currently amended. Claims 3-5, 11-13, and 18-19 are original. Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-20 remain under consideration, and of these, claims 1, 8, 10, and 20 are independent. Claims 2, 9, and 15-17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 14 was previously presented. There are no new claims. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,665,733 (Witkowski et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6,446,131 (Khansari et al.). The Office Action rejects claims 10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,446,131 (Khansari et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 5,477,547 (Sugiyama et al.).

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Silence with regard to any of the Examiner's rejections is not an acquiescence to such rejections. Specifically, silence with regard to Examiner's rejection of a dependent claim, when such claim depends from an independent claim that Applicants consider allowable for reasons provided herein, is not an acquiescence to such rejection of the dependent claims, but rather a recognition by Applicants that such previously lodged rejection is moot based on Applicants' remarks and/or amendments relative to the independent claim (that Applicants consider allowable) from which the dependent claim(s) depends. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the present or a subsequent application.

Applicants note with appreciation that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten to include all intervening limitations of claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claim 10 to correspond to an independent version of claim 17. Thus, Applicants consider that independent claim 10 is in condition for allowance, as are dependent claims 11-14, 18 and 19 for depending upon an allowable base claim.

In addition, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 20 to include limitations consistent with claim 17. In particular, amended claim 1 recites, at least in part, calculating a plurality of possible ports from which the packet is expected to be received using a source network address of the packet, wherein each one of the plurality of possible ports has associated therewith a weight, the weight relating to a likelihood that the packet is received from the one of the plurality of possible ports, and determining an expected port for the packet upon which the packet is expected to be received based on relative weights of the possible ports. Claims 6 and 7 are amended for consistency with claim 1.

Amended claim 8 recites, at least in part, mapping means for calculating a plurality of possible ports from which the packet is expected to be received using a source network address of the packet, wherein each one of the plurality of possible ports has associated therewith a weight, the weight relating to a likelihood that the packet is received from the one of the plurality of possible ports, and first determining means for determining an expected port for the packet based on relative weights of the possible ports.

Amended claim 20 recites, at least in part, a processor configured to generate an expected port table, the expected port table mapping each of a plurality of possible source network addresses to a plurality of possible ports of the switch, whereby a plurality of possible second ports are calculated by using a source network address of the packet, wherein each one of the plurality of possible second ports has associated therewith a weight, the weight relating to a likelihood that the packet is received from the one of the plurality of possible second ports.

None of the cited reference teach or suggest a plurality of possible ports the packet would be expected to have been received based, at least in part, on the associated relative weights of each of the plurality of possible ports. Therefore, claims 1, 3-8, and 10-20 distinguish over the cited art and should be allowed.

III. Conclusion

Based on the Examiner's recognition of the allowable subject matter in claim 17, and the incorporation of the limitations of claim 17 into claims 1, 8 and 20, Applicants believe that this amendment places claims 1, 8 and 20 in condition for allowance.

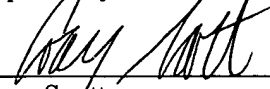
Since claims 3-7, 11-14, and 18-19 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 8, and 10, claims 3-7, 11-14, and 18-19 should be allowed for at least the same reasons as provided for claims 1, 8, and 10.

For at least the reasons stated in these Remarks, Applicants believe all pending claims to be in allowable condition. Applicants reserve the right to argue other distinctions if it ever becomes necessary. A favorable examination result is earnestly solicited. Questions or issues arising in this matter should be directed to Applicants' representatives, listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee of \$1810.00 to Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P01-366 to cover the cost of the three (3) month extension and Request for Continued Examination. If the amount is incorrect, please credit any excess or charge any further amount due to Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P01-366.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Corey Scott

Registration No.: 56,245
ROPES & GRAY LLP
One International Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624
(617) 951-7000
(617) 951-7050 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant